

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1 and 37 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicants claims 1, 3, 6-18, 20 and 22-36 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by the Namikawa, et al. (US 6,070,911) patent. The Examiner has further rejected applicants' claims 19, 21, 37, 40-51, 53, 55-56, 58-60, 52, 54, 57 under 35 USC § 103(a) based on the latter patent taken with one or more of the Schlicht (US 5,967,566) patent, the Pabla, et al. (US 2004/0137259) patent application publication, the Energy Partners reference and the Guthrie, et al. (US 4,786,086) patent. With respect to applicants' claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to applicants' undersigned attorney in the telephone interview conducted with the Examiner on December 29, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner clarified that the rejection under the Namikawa, et al. patent was based on what was shown in FIG. 1 of the patent. Applicants' undersigned attorney then pointed out to the Examiner that structure in this figure did not teach or suggest the features of applicants' independent claims 1 and 37 and, in particular, the feature in these claims of "wherein the through opening of said dielectric member is smaller than the through openings of said first and second members."

The Examiner, after conferring with the Examiner's Supervisor, agreed that the Namikawa, et al. patent did not teach the claimed invention, as above set forth. Accordingly, on January 5, 2006, the Examiner issued an Interview Summary which summarized the interview substantially as described herein and which applicants agree with.

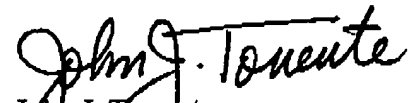
The Interview Summary further stated that the finality of the subject Office Action would be withdrawn upon the filing of this Amendment and that a further search would be performed to determine patentability. The Summary also requested that applicants clarify claims 1 and 37 with respect to the first and second surfaces and through opening of the dielectric member. Applicants' amendments to claims 1 and 37 have so clarified these claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims and passage of same and this application to issue is respectfully requested.

Dated: January 11, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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